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Annwyl Paul

On Friday 20th May 2022 the European Commission announced the latest of numerous emergency measures aimed at alleviating the impacts of the war in Ukraine on EU agriculture and food production, in the form of an exceptional measure that allows Rural Development Programme funding to be used to assist farmers and other businesses “...*affected by significant increases in input costs.*”

Given that the RDP continues to operate in Wales, and that the Welsh Government faces the challenge of spending an unprecedented amount of unspent RDP funds over the coming year - or losing it - we would naturally argue that this is something that needs to be considered given the pressures on farmers and others in the food supply chain caused by the war.

In a broader context, this and the Commission's other numerous announcements, coupled with the actions being taken across the EU's Member States, draws attention to the relative inaction here in Wales.

The severe issues facing agriculture and consumers in Wales and globally, and examples of the significant financial interventions announced in numerous countries, have been outlined in an [FUW briefing](#) sent to all Senedd Members on the 26th April 2022.

Our concerns regarding the rapidly closing or closed windows of opportunity for the Welsh Government to take proactive actions to help mitigate potentially severe impacts later in the year have repeatedly been made clear to the Welsh Government.

Given that, twelve weeks on from us first writing to the Welsh Government asking for swift action to be taken, we have yet to see any major actions or announcements by Welsh Government, and that the longest day of the year is nearly upon us, we would welcome it if the Committee were able to discuss this issue at its forthcoming meeting.

We would also welcome it if the Committee felt able to write to the Welsh Government urging them to instigate meaningful discussions with the agricultural industry and supply chain in order to consider in detail swift actions and policy changes that might ensure more crops and fodder are available for our consumers and livestock after the summer and into 2023.

As you know, and as we have already pointed out to the Welsh Government on numerous occasions since early March, failure to act now will not only have consequences for our own consumers, farmers and livestock, but will also have a severe knock on effect on populations in the poorest countries in the world, as richer countries such as the UK that have failed to bolster their own production are forced to buy in larger volumes of food and feed from a severely depleted global food market.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Glyn Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R'.

W. Glyn Roberts
President